

Appl. No. 09/995,415

Response to May 10, 2004 Office action

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant again thanks the Office for the indication that claims 14, 34, 54, and 74 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As shown in the above listing of the claims, Applicant has amended the claims to place the pending claims of this application into condition for allowance. More particularly, claims 1-91 were originally pending. Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-15, 17, 20-22, 24-26, 28-32, 34-35, 37, 40-42, 44-46, 48-52, 54-55, 57, 60-62, 64-66, 68-72, 74-75, 77, and 80-82 were amended. Claims 1, 7, 13, 23, 27, 33, 43, 47, 53, 63, 67, 73 were canceled without prejudice. Additionally, in view of a restriction requirement, claims 83-91 were withdrawn and canceled w/o prejudice. Accordingly, claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-22, 24-26, 28-32, 34-42, 44-46, 48-52, 54-62, 64-66, 68-72 and 74-82 remain pending.

With respect to the claim amendments, claims 14, 34, 54, and 74 were amended as suggested by the Examiner into an independent claim format that includes the features of their respective original base claim and any respective intervening claims. The remaining pending claims were amended to depend from these allowable base claims.

Conclusion

Pending claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-22, 24-26, 28-32, 34-42, 44-46, 48-52, 54-62, 64-66, 68-72 and 74-82 are in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested. Should any issue remain that prevents allowance of the application, the Office is encouraged to contact the undersigned prior or issuance of a subsequent Office Action.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 7/15/04

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